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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 3 June 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to write to you today regarding the serious, ongoing issue of illegal Israeli settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In total defiance and grave violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, United Nations resolutions and the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice and in total contradiction to the objectives and spirit of the renewed peace process, Israel, the occupying Power, continues and has intensified its settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Once again, we are witness to and subjected to the audacity of Israeli announcements of illegal colonial settlement construction, which has been incessant and has particularly targeted areas in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. Just two days ago, Israeli Housing Minister Ze'ev Boim announced over 880 new tenders in two illegal settlements, including that constructed on Jabal Abu Ghneim in Occupied East Jerusalem. Overall, since the Annapolis Conference seven months ago, despite its pledges and commitments to cease settlement activity, the Israeli Government has actually issued tenders for approximately 17,000 new housing units in illegal Israeli settlements across the Occupied West Bank, including in Occupied East Jerusalem.

It should be recalled that the Security Council's failure to address the settlement construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim in 1997, despite its extremely negative impact on the peace process and the situation on the ground, led to the General Assembly's convening of its tenth emergency special session. The expansion of this settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim or of any other Israeli settlement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, must thus be firmly opposed by the international community, as it represents a clear affront to the will of the community, which, in upholding international law, has consistently rejected these

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illegal settlements from the very first brick. In this regard, even the Quartet, from the outset, in its road map, has clearly called on Israel to freeze all settlement activity and dismantle all settlement "outposts".

Indeed, Israel's colonization campaign in its entirety — the settlements, the Wall, the bypass roads and all other measures intended to facilitate this campaign, including, inter alia, the confiscation of land, destruction of property and imposition of residency restrictions and a permit regime — constitutes a grave breach of international law, i.e. war crimes. Moreover, such illegal actions are destroying the territorial contiguity, integrity and unity of the Palestinian Territory, destroying the natural environment and destroying the chances for peace as they poison the atmosphere between the two sides, heighten tensions and frustrations, destabilize the situation on the ground and obstruct progress in the peace process.

This most recent declaration of continued settlement activity and expansion is regrettably yet additional proof of Israel's lack of commitment to the peace process and its terms of reference, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003), in which the Council endorsed the road map, and the principle of land for peace. Peace cannot be achieved while Israel continues to colonize the land it occupied in 1967. Such illegitimate actions are totally contradictory to the concept of withdrawal, ending the occupation and land for peace. In fact, the continuation of such actions seriously undermines and threatens the prospects for the establishment of a physically viable and contiguous independent Palestinian State and thus the achievement of peace.

The international community must call upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all settlement activities and to abide by all of its legal obligations. This must include respect for its obligations under international humanitarian law and for relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 465 (1980), in which the Council, inter alia, reiterated the call upon Israel to cease all settlement construction and to dismantle those settlements already built. Moreover, immediate and tangible confidence-building measures are necessary to indicate Israel's actual willingness to address this issue towards the ultimate achievement of a peaceful two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

We welcome your statement of concern regarding Israel's latest announcement of settlement expansion and the illegality of such actions. It is imperative that such gross, constant and grave violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, be firmly and consistently condemned and demands for their cessation be unequivocal. Continued tolerance for such crimes will only further undermine the rule of law in our international system to the detriment of all, which must be avoided.

Finally, with regard to this critical issue of the illegal settlements, I wish to draw special attention to the grave situation of Occupied East Jerusalem. Israel's attempts to change the character, demographic composition and status of East Jerusalem in order to completely isolate the city from the rest of the Palestinian Territory and forcibly annex it are totally illegal and not conducive to peace. East Jerusalem remains an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the illegality and invalidity of Israel's measure to colonize and annex the city have been rejected and declared null and void by both the Security Council and the General Assembly. The issue of Jerusalem remains a core final status issue that must be justly resolved in order to achieve a peaceful settlement. In the interest of peace and

justice, the international community must therefore exert urgent measures to protect East Jerusalem and halt all illegal Israeli measures and policies aimed at unilaterally determining the fate of the city, for there can be no peace without East Jerusalem as it is the capital and heart of the future Palestinian State.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 314 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 29 April 2008 (A/ES-10/418–S/2008/282), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady **Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 18 June 2008 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to perpetrate systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people as the occupying forces continue to launch violent attacks, military raids and arrest campaigns in civilian areas throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. With the continuation of its military campaign, the casualties and destruction being endured by the Palestinian people, especially in the besieged Gaza Strip, continue to mount. Moreover, Israel's military attacks continue to cause destruction to Palestinian property and infrastructure, in flagrant violation and grave breach of the relevant rules and provisions of international law.

Despite all such violent and unlawful Israeli actions, the Palestinian leadership has continued to exert efforts to diplomatically address the prevailing crisis and to call for calm. As a result, with the support of President Mahmoud Abbas and the Egyptian Government, a ceasefire in Gaza has been agreed upon and will take effect early tomorrow morning, Thursday, 19 June 2008 (Palestine time). This ceasefire should be extended to the remaining parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In the meantime, the agreement on a ceasefire in Gaza should lead to the opening of the crossing points in Gaza and bring an immediate end to all Israeli military attacks against the Gaza Strip along with an end to its suffocating and unlawful siege and collective punishment against the 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza, which has caused vast suffering, deepening poverty and a high incidence of disease and hardship.

On another front, we wish to emphasize the urgency of translating the collective will of the international community concerning Israel's continuing unlawful and intensifying pursuit of settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, there must be immediate action taken to call on Israel, the occupying Power, to completely cease all of its illegal settlement activities, including any construction, expansion and planning of

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settlements and the construction of the wall, and to dismantle its outposts. It is crucial that the international community address this serious issue, especially given that since the Annapolis Conference seven months ago and despite its pledges and commitments to cease settlement activity, the Israeli Government has actually accelerated its settlement activity throughout the Occupied West Bank, including in Occupied East Jerusalem, further fragmenting the contiguity, integrity and unity of the Palestinian Territory and severely endangering the prospects for realizing the two-State solution. Indisputably, the issue of settlement building by Israel, the occupying Power, is the largest obstacle in the path of the peace process and is dangerously undermining the efforts being exerted by the parties and the international community to bring about peace in the region.

In this regard, we reiterate our call for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and to condemn such unlawful Israeli actions and call for an immediate cessation of all settlement activity by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The Council must pronounce itself in a clear and forceful way to help salvage the peace process before Israel's illegal settlement campaign effectively destroys the peace process in its entirety.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 315 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 3 June 2008 (A/ES-10/419-S/2008/365), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

In follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since our letter to you dated 29 April 2008, at least 64 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 5,261 people. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are included in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 18 June 2008 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (from Friday, 2 May 2008, to Tuesday, 17 June 2008)

Friday, 2 May 2008

1. Usama Al-Houbi

Sunday, 4 May 2008

2. Hossam Al-Najjar

Tuesday, 6 May 2008

3. Hisham Shomar

Wednesday, 7 May 2008

4. Mahmoud Abu Moussalam

Friday, 9 May 2008

5. Hamdi Shubair
6. Sami Jameel Abu Anza
7. Omar Daoud Moussa Al-Sir
8. Sameer Jameel Wafi
9. Mohammad Abu Odeh
10. Bassam Abu Shbaika
11. Mohammad Abu Armana

Monday, 12 May 2008

12. Mu'taz Abu Anza

Tuesday, 13 May 2008

13. Tahreer Abdel Ghafour

Wednesday, 14 May 2008

14. Mohammad Mounir Abu Habeeb
15. Hamdi Abdel Majeed Kheder (17)
16. Khedr Slama Kheder (17)
17. Ibrahim Hassan Salha (18)
18. Bassem Mohsen Ashour
19. Mohammad Harara
20. Ahmad Al-Malahi (18)

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 5,261.

Thursday, 15 May 2008

21. Maher Al-Najjar

Monday, 19 May 2008

22. Fahmi Al-Dardouk (16)

Tuesday, 20 May 2008

23. Majd Abu Okal (13)
24. Ali Al-Dahdouh
25. Mohammad Khamees Odeh
26. Zayed Abu Wadi (12)

Wednesday, 21 May 2008

27. Mohammad Ahmad Al-Bahabsa
28. Khaled Abdel Hadi

Thursday, 22 May 2008

29. Abdel Kareem Ramadan Ahl
30. Mohammad Ibrahim Nasr
31. Saleh Atwa Al-Bahabsa

Friday, 23 May 2008

32. Ibrahim Madi
33. Muhannad Abu Awwad
34. Mohammad Abu Rizq
35. Ra'ed Jamal Al-Naqa
36. Hossam Abu Abda

Wednesday, 28 May 2008

37. Usama al-Ghotti
38. Abdel Razeq Abu Mu'ammar

Thursday, 29 May 2008

39. Ahmad Al-Ammour

Friday, 30 May 2008

40. Yousra Abu Rouq

Monday, 2 June 2008

41. Sari Abu Samra

Thursday, 5 June 2008

42. Aya Al-Najjar (4)

Friday, 6 June 2008

43. Khalil Sokkar

Saturday, 7 June 2008

44. Bilal Al-Sharbasi

Tuesday, 10 June 2008

45. Mohammad Dolat
46. Khaled Zaki Zuhd
47. Ahmad Al-Safadi
48. Yehya Hameed
49. Mostafa Attallah

Wednesday, 11 June 2008

50. Yasser Abu Haleeb
51. Hadeel Abdel Kareem Al-Somairi (9)
52. Ibrahim Mahmoud Sa'ad
53. Hassan Asaliyya

Friday, 13 June 2008

54. Mostafa Al-Batsh
55. Moussa Hammouda
56. Mahmoud Hadar

Monday, 16 June 2008

57. Mu'taz Tafesh
58. Alaa' Al-Boraim
59. Mahmoud Abu Shab

Tuesday, 17 June 2008

60. Mohammad Al-Shindi
61. Mu'taz Daghmash
62. Ezz Al-Mozazi
63. Mahmoud Asaliyya
64. Moussa Al-Modaini (10)

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 25 June 2008 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that five days after the ceasefire was declared in the Gaza Strip, Israeli occupying forces committed yet another unprovoked military assault against the West Bank town of Nablus, threatening the fragile ceasefire and inciting further violence. In this regard and as we have called for repeatedly, we reaffirm the imperative of extending the ceasefire to the West Bank, as the Gaza Strip and the West Bank constitute one geographical unit — the Occupied Palestinian Territory — and, as such, Israeli military operations and attacks in either area have negative repercussions. Time and time again, such illegal, irresponsible and violent Israeli actions have served only to perpetuate the cycle of death and destruction on both sides and undermine all efforts to achieve calm and promote the peace process.

With regard to the recent attack in Nablus, in the early morning hours of Monday, 23 June 2008, Israeli occupying forces raided the student dormitory room of Iyad Khanfar and Tareq Abu Ghali, fourth year art students at Al-Najah University in Nablus, and opened fire at the two unarmed students, riddling their bodies with bullets. Israeli occupying forces then proceeded to surround the adjacent Salous and Masri buildings at 1.30 in the morning, shooting and firing sound bombs throughout the night, causing fear, panic and terror to spread among the civilian population in Nablus. The occupying forces also arrested five other men during this brutal incursion. In this regard, it is important to note that, despite the fact that Palestinian police have controlled Nablus since November 2007, Israel, the occupying Power, has never ceased its deadly and destructive incursions and its arbitrary arrests in Nablus and surrounding areas, undermining any Palestinian efforts, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, to restore law and order and to promote calm.

In addition, in the early morning hours of today, Israeli occupying forces opened random fire at an 80-year-old farmer as he tended to his field in the city of

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Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip. He was seriously wounded and taken to a hospital for urgent treatment. Also today, Israel's Defence Minister announced that Israel would close the Gaza crossings indefinitely, a clear violation of the ceasefire agreement reached by the parties and one that will only result in the further impoverishment and humanitarian suffering of the Palestinian civilian population.

These alarming incidents of violence prove once again that the occupying Power's blatant violations of Palestinian rights, which it carries out with impunity, obstruct all efforts to achieve calm and threaten the ceasefire reached as a result of the intensive and commendable efforts by the Egyptian Government on 19 June. Clearly, Israeli military incursions and killings in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are not only grave violations of human rights, international law and international humanitarian law, but are also totally contrary to the efforts to promote a peace between the two sides.

The international community must hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights law in order to protect the Palestinian civilian population and encourage an atmosphere of calm and stability. Israel cannot continue to preach about its own security when it continuously violates the security of the entire Palestinian population under its occupation and jeopardizes the ceasefire. The Security Council, in particular, must uphold its Charter responsibilities and act to bring an end to all of the appalling crimes being committed by the occupying Power in all areas of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 316 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 18 June 2008 (A/ES-10/420-S/2008/404), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer